IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please AMEND claims 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, and 12 in accordance with the following:

1. (canceled)

2. (previously presented) The transaction supporting method according to claim6, wherein said step (a) specifies the price of the securities that has a given range.

3. (previously presented) The transaction supporting method according to claim6, wherein said step (b) specifies the volume of the securities that has a given range.

4. (previously presented) The transaction supporting method according to claim6, wherein said step (c) specifies a condition that inhibits partial agreement between orders.

5. (canceled)

6. (currently amended) A transaction supporting method performed on a computer, the method comprising:

(a) allowing a client to specify a price specification of securities to be bought or sold ~~via a computer~~;

(b) allowing the client to specify~~ing~~ a volume of the securities;

(c) allowing the client to specify~~ing~~ conditions for buying or selling the securities;

(d) allowing the client to specify that a current order thereof be hidden from other clients;

(e) issuing ~~an~~ the hidden order via ~~a~~ the computer for the volume of the securities at the price under the specified conditions;

~~(e) inhibiting the order from being displayed at a terminal involved in a third party; and~~

(f) displaying all pending orders including the hidden order on a screen of the computer, together with indication of whether each pending order is specified as a hidden order or not; and

(g) providing the other clients with information on all pending orders, including prices and

volumes of the securities being traded, but excluding those of the hidden order. ~~processing the order that is inhibited from being displayed in preference to another order~~.

7.   (currently amended) The transaction supporting method according to claim 6, further comprising changing the conditions on the order issued by said step ~~(d)~~(e).

8.   (currently amended) The transaction supporting method according to claim 6, further comprising canceling the order issued by said step ~~(d)~~(e).

9.   (previously presented) The transaction supporting method according to claim 8, wherein said canceling the order cancels the order even if a partial agreement with another order is made.

10.   (currently amended) A computer-readable recording medium storing a program causing a computer to function as:

means for allowing a client to ~~specifying~~ a price of securities to be bought or sold;

means for allowing the client to ~~specifying~~ a volume of the securities;

means for allowing the client to ~~specifying~~ conditions for buying or selling the securities;

means for allowing the client to specify that a current order thereof be hidden from other clients;

means for issuing ~~an~~the hidden order via the computer for the specified volume of the securities at the specified price under the specified conditions;

means for displaying all pending orders including the hidden order on a screen of the computer, together with indication of whether each pending order is specified as a hidden order or not; and

means for providing the other clients with information on all the pending orders, including prices and volumes of the securities being traded, but excluding those of the hidden order.

~~means for inhibiting the order from being displayed at a terminal involved in a third party; and~~

~~means for processing the order that is inhibited from being displayed in preference to another order.~~

11.   (currently amended) A transaction supporting apparatus, comprising:

means for allowing a client to ~~specifying~~ a price of securities to be bought or sold;

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means for allowing the client to specify~~ing~~ a volume of the securities;

means for allowing the client to specify~~ing~~ conditions for buying or selling the securities;

means for allowing the client to specify that a current order thereof be hidden from other clients;

means for issuing ~~an~~ the hidden order via the computer for the specified volume of the securities at the specified price under the specified conditions;

means for displaying all pending orders including the hidden order on a screen of the transaction supporting apparatus, together with indication of whether each pending order is specified as a hidden order or not; and

means for providing the other clients with information on all pending orders, including prices and volumes of the securities being traded, but excluding those of the hidden order.

~~means for inhibiting the order from being displayed at a terminal involved in a third party; and~~

~~means for processing the order that is inhibited from being displayed in preference to another order.~~

12.   (currently amended) A transaction supporting method performed via computer, comprising:

~~inhibiting a securities order; and~~

~~giving preference to the inhibited securities order over another securities order~~allowing a client, via the computer, to specify that a current order be hidden from other clients.

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